

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Classifying it as a "news" item is also clearly a deception. Sinclair needs to call a spade a spade. If they are going to show an anti-Kerry documentary whose makers have close ties to the Bush campaign, then they need to also air "Going Upriver" or another similar program that shows the other side.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.